

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 3, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

**Attention \*** - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation: September 2, 2003 (2200)**

**A. Large Fires**

*Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5  
National Preparedness Level = 5*

- *Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:*
  - *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 19,312 acres, 7% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.*
  - *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 6,360 acres, 5% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
  - *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) – 50,249 acres, 76% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
  - *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 15,783 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
  - *Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Weldon) of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
  - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 52,083 acres, 70% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
  - *Trapper Creek Complex – 18,883 acres, 65% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.*
  - *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 11,100 acres, 70% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
- *Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:*
  - *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) – 31,756 acres, 50% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
  - *Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) – 22,542 acres, 75% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.*
  - *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 24,540 acres, 55% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
  - *Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 8,296 acres, 85% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.*
  - *Black Mountain 2 – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) – 7,061 acres, 100% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) – 37,812 acres, 76% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.*

- *Cathedral Peak – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 2,778 acres, 22% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.*
- *Rathbone – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Walker) – 3,010 acres, 75% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone.*
- *Beaver Lake Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Brunner) – 24,495 acres, 60% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.*
- *Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 2,930 acres, 95% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart.*
- *Rough Draw Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gray) – 3,180 acres, 85% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston.*
- *Cherry Creek Complex – 4,088 acres, 85% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls.*
- *Winslow – 13,438 acres, 50% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview.*
- *East Complex – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.*
- *Mollman – 200 acres, 40% contained, 5 miles SE of Ronan.*

**B. Initial Attack**      *Minimal initial attack in the Northern Rockies - 5 new fires 6,947 acres*

### **C. State Forecast For Montana**

**STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA**  
**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT**  
**400 AM MDT WED SEP 3 2003**

**WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE**  
*Today - Sunny And Smoky. Highs 86 To 96.*  
*Tonight - Mostly Clear And Smoky. Lows 41 To 51.*  
*Thursday - Partly Cloudy And Smoky. Highs 84 To 94.*

**CENTRAL MONTANA**  
*Today - Sunny. Highs In The Upper 70s To Mid 80s.*  
*Tonight - Clear. Lows In The Mid 40s To Lower 50s.*  
*Thursday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Lower 80s To Lower 90s.*

**SOUTHWEST MONTANA**  
*Today - Sunny. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.*  
*Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The Upper 30s To Mid 40s.*  
*Thursday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.*

**EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA**  
*Today - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Lower To Mid 80s...70s Mountains.*  
*Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows 45 To 55...30s And 40s Mountains.*  
*Thursday - Mostly Sunny. Highs In The 90s...70s And 80s Mountains.*

### **III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:**

*The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:*

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03

Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Teton	Mineral
Glacier	Broadwater	Missoula
Lake	Cascade	Pondera
Lewis & Clark	Chouteau	Powell
Lincoln	Jefferson	Toole
Sanders	Meagher	

#### IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

##### State and National Guard Assistance:

Current Montana National Guard Resources			
Montana Army Guard		EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN
	3 UH-60S	68 HMMVs	
		3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
		6 1 ¼ TRAILER	
		18 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
		5 M1009 TRUCK	
		4 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
		14 Pick Up	
		2 VANS	
		1 7-TON TRUCK	
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER	
		1 M939 SERIES 5T CARGO	
		3 CUCV	
		1 One Ton	
227 Soldiers Assigned	3 Aircraft Modules	127 HVY Equipment	211 Airmen Assigned

##### Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:

Northwest Area Command  
Missoula Area Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

## **V. FEMA Grants:**

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

## **VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:**

*For the latest fire restrictions:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

*For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:*

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

*For the latest closures and evacuations:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)

*For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed\\_sit.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac\\_priorities.doc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc)